

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are well acquainted with the General Accounting Office. It is Congress' and the Nation's primary watchdog agency responsible for providing credible, objective and nonpartisan reports and evaluations of the programs and management of the executive branch.

The GAO has for years provided Congress with invaluable assistance, now it is asking us for assistance by providing GAO with needed human capital authorities, and we should meet this request.

Mr. Speaker, from 1992 to 1997, GAO's budget was cut by one-third. In order to achieve these reductions, the GAO was forced to reduce its staff by almost 40 percent and close many field offices. Since then, it has had to impose hiring freezes, cut training and suspend incentive programs. During the same period, GAO has faced a problem common to much of the Federal Government, an aging workforce.

By the end of fiscal year 2004, over one-third of the GAO's employees would be eligible for retirement. As a result of these pressures, GAO's workforce is out of shape. There are too many senior- and middle-level employees and too few at the lower levels. These imbalances have been well documented in a human capital profile completed by the Comptroller General.

In addition, the types of skills, knowledge and performance needed by GAO have changed over time as the world has been radically altered by the information age technology. Major policy issues have also become increasingly complex, requiring greater technical skill and sophistication to support the needs of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, all of these trends have led to a human capital profile at the General Accounting Office which does not currently operate in the most efficient or effective manner. More seriously, it puts the GAO at risk of being unable to meet the demands and needs of the Congress in the future.

The legislation before us would provide GAO with authority to address these concerns. For example, the bill would authorize the Comptroller General to offer early retirement opportunities and separation pay to a limited number of qualified personnel each of the next 3 fiscal years.

Under the legislation, the Comptroller could also establish senior-level positions to meet critical scientific or technical needs. Finally, the bill requires the Comptroller to report annually to the Congress on the effect of this legislation and to submit a 3-year assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of this act.

These and other flexibilities in the bill will bring the GAO closer to the personnel policies of our legislative branch organizations such as the Committees of Congress and the Congressional Budget Office. However, this legislation should not be viewed as a precedent for changes in executive branch personnel policy.

Mr. Speaker, we have an outstanding Comptroller General in Mr. Walker. He is putting all of his efforts into making the GAO the kind of agency that we will all be proud of.

□ 1545

This legislation before us today is a result of an enormous amount of effort that he has put into giving us recommendations to make GAO a better organization. I think that we ought to join together in a bipartisan move today in supporting this legislation and making sure that the GAO will be there to serve the needs of the Congress and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4642, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

2002 WINTER OLYMPIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3679) to provide for the minting of commemorative coins to support the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games and the programs of the United States Olympic Committee, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3679

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "2002 Winter Olympic Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) FIVE DOLLAR GOLD COINS.—Not more than 80,000 \$5 coins, which shall weigh 8.359 grams, have a diameter of 0.850 inches, and contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) ONE DOLLAR SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall weigh 26.73 grams, have a diameter of 1.500 inches, and contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) DESIGN.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the participation of American athletes in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. On each coin there shall be a designation of the value of the coin, an inscription of the year "2002", and inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(c) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code,

all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. SOURCES OF BULLION.

(a) GOLD.—The Secretary shall obtain gold for minting coins under this Act pursuant to the authority of the Secretary under other provisions of law.

(b) SILVER.—The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under this Act from any available source, including from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 4. SELECTION OF DESIGN.

The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

(A) the Commission of Fine Arts;

(B) the United States Olympic Committee; and

(C) Olympic Properties of the United States—Salt Lake 2002, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company created and owned by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "Olympic Properties of the United States"); and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January 1, 2002, except that the Secretary may initiate sales of such coins, without issuance, before such date.

(c) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins shall be minted under this Act after December 31, 2002.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the face value, plus the cost of designing and issuing such coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and marketing).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS AT A DISCOUNT.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins. Sales under this subsection shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales shall include a surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coins and \$10 per coin for the \$1 coins.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) SALT LAKE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES OF 2002.—One half to the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 for use in staging and promoting the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games.

(2) UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.—One half to the United States Olympic Committee for use by the Committee for the objects and purposes of the Committee as established in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

(c) AUDITS.—Each organization that receives any payment from the Secretary under this section shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3679, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly fitting that this legislation comes before the House at this time, for the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney have captured our attention. Those games began only 4 days ago and are in full swing as we speak.

In less than 18 months, in February of 2002, our attention will be focused on Salt Lake City, where the Winter Olympic Games will commence. Anyone who has watched the Olympic competition is thrilled with the tremendous athletic accomplishments of all the young people involved; not only our young people but those throughout the world.

Anyone who buys a silver \$1 coin or a \$5 gold coin authorized by the legislation under consideration will have the satisfaction of knowing that the surcharge they pay on this coin will go to support our American athletes as they train for the upcoming 2002 Winter Olympics.

The legislation under consideration is sponsored by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK). The legislation has widespread support. It is cosponsored by 290 of his colleagues. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate. It has the requisite 67 cosponsors and, in fact, has been marked up by the Senate Banking Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. Cook), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for his efforts in bringing H.R. 3679, the 2002 Winter Olympic Commemorative Coin Act, to the floor today. A commemorative coin program has been a part of every U.S. Olympics Games since 1952.

In fact, the Olympic coin has become an important Olympic tradition in the United States and internationally as well. It is especially timely that this bill should come to the House floor now as the world watches the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. I am sure many of us have been glued to the television watching our young swimmers, like Jenny Thompson, Megan Quann and Tom Dolan, break records and bring home the gold. As America and my home State of Utah look for-

ward to hosting the Olympic Winter Games in 2002, passing this coin bill is a big step toward preparing for that monumental international event in our own country and preparing our athletes to compete.

Throughout the world, coin programs serve as national symbols of both morale and financial support for the games. The surcharges generated by this coin program will provide an important source of revenue for the training and support of U.S. athletes, as well as for hosting the Olympic Games.

Some of my colleagues may remember some of the problems connected with the Atlanta Olympic Games coin program. I want to assure my colleagues that H.R. 3679 has been thoughtfully and carefully crafted to overcome and prevent those problems from occurring once again.

This coin program has been developed in conjunction with the U.S. Mint and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, which represents the Nation's coin collectors, the main purchasers of commemorative coins. With only 400,000 \$1 silver coins and 80,000 \$5 gold coins authorized, the program is expected to sell out and raise over \$4 million for our Olympic athletes at no cost to the taxpayers.

Finally, I would like to thank the 290 Members of this Congress who joined me in celebrating the Olympic spirit by cosponsoring H.R. 3679. Helping our Olympic athletes achieve their dreams is something I think we can all be proud to support.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. This bill provides for the minting of commemorative coins to support the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games and the programs of the United States Olympic Committee. As we witness the joy of watching the Summer Olympics in Sydney, and the pride that our American athletes bring to our country, I am pleased to support a commemorative coin for the Winter Games of 2002, which will be coming back to the United States.

An act of Congress to issue this coin is consistent with the long tradition of issuing commemorative coins for the important events that shape our Nation's history, as well as for our national heroes.

We have in the past issued commemorative coins for other Olympics games held in the U.S., as well as for other 1994 soccer world cups also held in 12 cities across the United States. As laid out in the legislation, the design of the commemorative coin shall be emblematic of the participation of American athletes in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Each coin must have a designation of the value of the coin, an inscription of the year 2002, and, following U.S. tradition, inscriptions of the words: In God We Trust, United States of America, and E Pluribus Unum.

Half of the coin proceeds will go to the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for use in the staging and promotion of the games and the other half to the U.S. Olympic Committee. I certainly urge adoption of this bill.

I have one comment that I would like to add. I think the Olympic Games are extremely important. Not only does it give us the opportunity to compete with other very, very fine athletes from all around the world, it is really a geography lesson that is learned as we watch the competition in various parts of the world; and I would like for the aborigines in Sydney to know that we are learning about them as we watch the games in Sydney and that their plight is not unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reinforce what the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK) earlier said, and that this legislation is a far cry from that which created the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Coin program. That program had multiple coins. It was overly ambitious. According to the General Accounting Office, it lost several million dollars.

This legislation profited from those mistakes. The gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), who was then chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, made several reforms on the commemorative coin program. Those reforms are incorporated in this bill. One important reform is that no surcharges from a commemorative program may be paid to a beneficiary organization until the taxpayer has been made whole for the cost of designing and producing the coin. That is done in this series.

The sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), and the Salt Lake Committee, all worked with the U.S. Olympic Committee and with the Senate and House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, recognizing this recent history and this legislation contains several changes from that previous commemorative coin legislation aimed at increasing the integrity of the program.

The most important change, one which has been praised by the coin collectors, is reduction in the standard maximum mintage level, which should make these coins retain its value for collectors, which traditionally buy about 90 percent of these coins. The Olympic committees have also worked closely with the Mint, with the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee to devise this program. I would like to commend both the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) for their efforts, along with the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), for his efforts to bring this bill to the floor, and also my colleague from Utah (Mr. COOK), for his hard work in moving this issue forward. As many of the Members know, it takes 290 cosponsors on a bill to move a commemorative coin bill forward, and that takes a lot of effort.

So I would also like to thank all of my colleagues who have worked with us to cosponsor this bill and bring it to this stage.

We are going to have the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in February of 2002, and while in Utah we like to think of these as our Olympics. In fact they are America's Olympics, and it has been wonderful to work with our colleagues to help support that idea that this is the American Olympics.

I am personally proud of the Olympics because about 80 percent of the venues are going to be in my district, and frankly I know there are a lot of Congressmen who believe they have beautiful districts, but none are nearly so beautiful as mine. And so we invite everyone to come to the Olympics and to see another one of these areas in my district like Moab, where we have the Great Red Rock country where people go down and bike.

This commemorative coin is really about athletes; and now that we have the Summer Olympics going on in Sydney, it is good to consider just for a moment the benefits that they will get. We expect that this commemorative coin will raise about \$6 million, which will be split evenly between the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Salt Lake Olympic Committee, and the proceeds of that money will all go to training athletes. So this is a great way to perpetuate the American tradition of winning the Olympics, as we are currently doing.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good commemorative coin program. I commend it to the Members. It honors a great tradition, the Olympics. It honors and supports our great U.S. Olympic team, those athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I simply join the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK) in urging all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3679, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1349) to amend title 18, United States Code, to combat the overutilization of prison health care services and control rising prisoner health care costs, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1349

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. HEALTH CARE FEES FOR PRISONERS IN FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 4048. Fees for health care services for prisoners

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'account' means the trust fund account (or institutional equivalent) of a prisoner;

"(2) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Bureau of Prisons;

"(3) the term 'health care provider' means any person who is—

"(A) authorized by the Director to provide health care services; and

"(B) operating within the scope of such authorization;

"(4) the term 'health care visit'—

"(A) means a visit, as determined by the Director, by a prisoner to an institutional or noninstitutional health care provider; and

"(B) does not include a visit initiated by a prisoner—

"(i) pursuant to a staff referral; or

"(ii) to obtain staff-approved follow-up treatment for a chronic condition; and

"(5) the term 'prisoner' means—

"(A) any individual who is incarcerated in an institution under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Prisons; or

"(B) any other individual, as designated by the Director, who has been charged with or convicted of an offense against the United States.

"(b) FEES FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in accordance with this section and with such regulations as the Director shall promulgate to carry out this section, may assess and collect a fee for health care services provided in connection with each health care visit requested by a prisoner.

"(2) EXCLUSION.—The Director may not assess or collect a fee under this section for preventative health care services, emergency services, prenatal care, diagnosis or treatment of chronic infectious diseases, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment, as determined by the Director.

"(c) PERSONS SUBJECT TO FEE.—Each fee assessed under this section shall be collected by the Director from the account of—

"(1) the prisoner receiving health care services in connection with a health care visit described in subsection (b)(1); or

"(2) in the case of health care services provided in connection with a health care visit described in subsection (b)(1) that results from an injury inflicted on a prisoner by another prisoner, the prisoner who inflicted the injury, as determined by the Director.

"(d) AMOUNT OF FEE.—Any fee assessed and collected under this section shall be in an amount of not less than \$1.

"(e) NO CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the consent of a prisoner shall not be required for the collection of a fee from the account of the prisoner under this section. However, each such prisoner shall be given a reasonable opportunity to dispute the amount of the fee or whether the prisoner qualifies under an exclusion under this section.

"(f) NO REFUSAL OF TREATMENT FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit any refusal of treatment to a prisoner on the basis that—

"(1) the account of the prisoner is insolvent; or

"(2) the prisoner is otherwise unable to pay a fee assessed under this section.

"(g) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

"(1) RESTITUTION OF SPECIFIC VICTIMS.—Amounts collected by the Director under this section from a prisoner subject to an order of restitution issued pursuant to section 3663 or 3663A shall be paid to victims in accordance with the order of restitution.

"(2) ALLOCATION OF OTHER AMOUNTS.—Of amounts collected by the Director under this section from prisoners not subject to an order of restitution issued pursuant to section 3663 or 3663A—

"(A) 75 percent shall be deposited in the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601); and

"(B) 25 percent shall be available to the Attorney General for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

"(h) NOTICE TO PRISONERS OF LAW.—Each person who is or becomes a prisoner shall be provided with written and oral notices of the provisions of this section and the applicability of this section to the prisoner. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a fee under this section may not be assessed against, or collected from, such person—

"(1) until the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which each prisoner in the prison system is provided with such notices; and

"(2) for services provided before the expiration of such period.

"(i) NOTICE TO PRISONERS OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations promulgated by the Director under subsection (b)(1), and any amendments to those regulations, shall not take effect until the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which each prisoner in the prison system is provided with written and oral notices of the provisions of those regulations (or amendments, as the case may be). A fee under this section may not be assessed against, or collected from, a prisoner pursuant to such regulations (or amendments, as the case may be) for services provided before the expiration of such period.

"(j) NOTICE BEFORE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—Before the beginning of any period a proposed regulation under this section is open to public comment, the Director shall provide written and oral notice of the provisions of that proposed regulation to groups that advocate on behalf of Federal prisoners and to each prisoner subject to such proposed regulation.

"(k) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act of 2000, and annually thereafter, the Director shall transmit to Congress a report, which shall include—

"(1) a description of the amounts collected under this section during the preceding 12-month period;